

REMARKS

The Final Office Action mailed December 11, 2003 has been received and reviewed. Claims 6-18 are pending and are finally rejected in view of newly cited references. Claims 6, 11, 12 and 18 are amended responsive to the new rejections. No new issues are raised as a result of the amendments and entry is appropriate.

The Applicant submits that the claims are in condition for allowance for the reasons stated hereinafter.

Rejection Of Claims 6-18 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) [Bittern]

Claims 6-18 are newly rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Bittern (USPN 3,837,759). As amended, claims 6 and 12 require that the threaded spindle has at least one projecting shoulder that inserts into a tool part and that the projecting shoulder be configured with tool-receiving means for effecting rotation of the threaded spindle via the embedded projecting shoulder when inserted in the tool part. Support for the amendment is found in the specification at paragraphs [0008] and [0011], and was previously presented in claims 11 and 18. Bittern fails to teach or suggest any such structure. Rather, Bittern discloses a drive shaft (considered by the Examiner to equate to the claimed threaded spindle) which is threaded at one end for insertion into a first tool part, identified as a hole saw (30). The other end of the drive shaft is formed with a central bore (16) that is provided for receiving a second tool, specifically identified as a pilot drill. Bittern does not disclose that the bore-containing end of the drive shaft provides a projecting shoulder that inserts into a tool part as required by the claims. To the contrary, the bore receives a tool part therein.

Therefore, Bittern discloses a device which has an entirely different structure, purpose and operation from the claimed invention. Additionally, Bittern fails to teach a spindle device where, as claimed, a projecting shoulder of the device which is configured for insertion into a tool part is configured with a tool-receiving element for providing rotation

of the spindle via the projecting shoulder when the shoulder is embedded or inserted into the tool. Bittern, therefore, neither anticipates nor obviates claims 6-18.

Rejection Of Claims 6, 12 and 13 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) [Redinger]

Claims 6, 12 and 13 are newly rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Redinger (USPN 1,615,233). Again, amended claims 6 and 12 require that the threaded spindle has at least one projecting shoulder that inserts into a tool part and that the projecting shoulder is configured with tool-receiving means for effecting rotation of the threaded spindle via the projecting shoulder when the projecting shoulder is inserted in a tool part. Redinger fails to teach or suggest any such structure or capability and, therefore, neither anticipates nor obviates claims 6, 12 and 13.

Rejection Of Claims 6-8, 12, 14 and 15 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) [Hart]

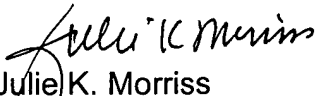
Claims 6-8, 12, 14 and 15 are newly rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hart (USPN 2,005,498). Both claims 6 and 12 require a threaded spindle that has at least one projecting shoulder the diameter of which is slightly smaller than the interior diameter of the associated tool part so that the projecting shoulder approximates the interior diameter and thereby serves to guide and both axially and angularly align the tool parts. Hart provides no such structure. To the contrary, Hart discloses a connecting stud (3) having projecting ends (8,9) which are purposefully sized to be considerably smaller than the corresponding recesses of the tool parts into which the projecting ends are inserted (see FIG. 1 of Hart) so that the stud will be loosely fitted in the threaded portions of the conjoined tool parts so that the stud may float up and down within the helical bore. See page 2, left hand column, lines 42-46. Such structure is antithetical to the claimed structure, and its purpose, of the present invention. Additionally, as now amended, claims 6 and 12 require tool-receiving means as described and argued previously herein, and Hart discloses no such structure.

Therefore, Hart neither anticipates nor obviates claims 6-8, 12, 14 or 15.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments made and the arguments presented, the Applicant submits that claims 6-18 present patentable subject matter. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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